

Soil Testing



*Enhancing Land Productivity,
Nutrient Use Efficiency &
Environmental Quality*

N.C. Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

properties or nutrient content should, in most cases, submit samples for waste or solution analysis. Consult your regional agronomist for advice on the type of analysis most appropriate for your situation.

Results: The Soil Test Report

Lab results are backed by a strong network of support. NCDA&CS regional agronomists are available statewide to give advice on sampling procedures and to explain report recommendations (see www.ncagr.com/agronomi/rahome.htm). Private facilities rarely offer such assistance.

Soil samples are usually analyzed within one week of the time they are received. However, from late fall through early spring, processing may take several weeks due to the heavy sample influx from farmers at this time. Once analysis is complete, the soil test report is posted on the Agronomic Division's Web site, and a copy is mailed to the client and advisor, if applicable.

An explanatory cover sheet and a crop-specific flyer usually accompany the report. The cover sheet explains the technical terms and index values. The flyer provides extra details on lime and fertilizer application for specific crops. These materials are also available online.

Checklist for Successful Results

- **Collect samples properly.** Instructions are available online at www.ncagr.com/agronomi/uyst.htm#sampling.
- **Use the appropriate NCDA&CS package.** Soil sample boxes are available at the

Agronomic Division office in Raleigh, from regional agronomists and at county Cooperative Extension offices. Shipping boxes designed to hold up to 36 soil sample boxes are also available.

- **Fill out the sample information form.** Use form AD-1 for routine soil samples and form AD-2 for problem samples. Both are available at www.ncagr.com/agronomi/uyst.htm#info, from regional agronomists and at Cooperative Extension offices.
- **Ship samples quickly and correctly.** The best way to ship soil samples is to deliver them yourself or send them via private carrier (DHS, FedEx, UPS) to the physical address (below). Samples sent through the postal service must be addressed to the Mail Service Center and take longer to arrive.

For additional information, contact

NCDA&CS Agronomic Division
Colleen M. Hudak-Wise, Ph.D., Director

David H. Hardy, Ph.D., Soil Testing Section Chief

Physical Address:

4300 Reedy Creek Rd
Raleigh, NC
27607-6465

Mailing Address:

1040 MSC
Raleigh, NC
27699-1040

Phone: (919) 733-2655
or visit our Web site
www.ncagr.com/agronomi

Prepared by
David H. Hardy, Jeana Myers and
Catherine Stokes

revised July 2008